

FAMILY FOCUS

Especially for families and friends of deployed soldiers, information, events, and programs brought to you by Tobyhanna Army Depot Army Community Service.

Reserve and Guard Receive Unlimited Commissary Benefits

www.commissaries.com

The Department of Defense announced that with the president's signing of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004, effective immediately, the following members and their dependents will be permitted unlimited access to commissary stores.



-Members of the Ready Reserve (which includes members of the Selected Reserve, Individual Ready Reserve and Inactive National Guard) and members of the Retired Reserve who possess a Uniformed Services Identification Card.

-Former members eligible for retired pay at age 60 but who have not yet attained the age of 60 and who possess a Department of Defense Civilian Identification Card.

-Dependents of the members described above who have a Uniformed Services Identification Card or who have a distinct identification card used as an authorization card for benefits and privileges administered by the Uniformed Services.

"Instructions have gone out to all continental U.S. stores informing them that reservists now have unlimited shopping and telling store managers how to welcome members of the National Guard and Reserve to the full use of the commissary benefit," said Patrick Nixon, deputy director of the Defense Commissary Agency. "Commissary shoppers will begin to see banners saying 'Welcome Guard and Reserve to Full Time Savings,' along with other events recognizing these new full-time shoppers."

Guard and Reserve members were authorized only 24 commissary shopping days per calendar year until today when the president signed the National Defense Authorization Act, which contained provisions eliminating the restrictions. Commissaries have immediately adopted the new provisions, which means Guard and Reserve members will no longer have to present a Commissary Privilege Card when they Shop.

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Operation Homelink



Operation Homelink provides free refurbished computers to either parents or spouses of deployed service men and women in the ranks of E-1 through E-5. The program enables e-mail communications between families and their loved ones deployed outside of the continental United States. For more information see:
<http://www.operationhomelink.org/index.shtml>